

MEMO

TO: All Members, Board, and Staff
FROM: Paula Doucet, NBNU President
DATE: March 16, 2020
RE: COVID-19 Preventative Measures

The world is facing an extraordinary situation with COVID-19, which was declared a global pandemic by the World Health Organization (WHO) on March 11th. In an effort to ease the burden on our healthcare system, we are committed to doing our part by implementing government's recommended measures to slow down the spread.

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve across the globe, NBNU's priority is to take all necessary steps to protect the health, safety and livelihood of our members, and our team at the NBNU office.

As of today, March 16th, we are implementing the following:

- All non-essential NBNU meetings will be postponed or cancelled until further notice (including Executive Council);
- Essential NBNU meetings, including meetings with NBNU labour relations officers, should be conducted remotely via video/teleconference;
- The NBNU office will be closed to visitors until further notice; and,
- NBNU will continue to post the latest information about COVID-19 to a dedicated section on our website (<https://nbnu.ca/safety-is-not-negotiable-pandemic-preparedness-the-coronavirus-2019-covid-19/>);
- Please continue to regularly check your email for memos and important information updates.

The NBNU team is dedicated, experienced and professional and will continue to provide member support during this time of stress and uncertainty. Your ability to provide excellent healthcare during the pandemic is essential to getting through this. NBNU will continue to ensure that your employers keep this at the forefront of their decision-making process.

Throughout history, nurses have made clear we will not abandon our patients or communities needing care, regardless of the danger to ourselves. But we are not reckless and want to make informed choices about our own risk exposure based on consistent, clear information, grounded in the best available evidence, and knowing that every possible safeguard will be put in place for protection.

It is important to remember that we, as Registered Nurses and Nurse Practitioners, are a voice of leadership in the healthcare field. We need to be well informed and in order to assist everyone to help slow down the spread of COVID-19:

- Listen to experts and avoid misinformation. The best information comes from experts including physicians, Health Canada, World Health Organization and New Brunswick's Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health. We are gathering these resources in one place: <https://nbnu.ca/safety-is-not-negotiable-pandemic-preparedness-the-coronavirus-2019-covid-19/>
- Continue to take all necessary precautions, regardless if you are in a low-risk group. These

precautions are not just to avoid getting infected or spreading COVID-19, but to avoid overburdening our healthcare system during this situation.

The New Brunswick Nurses Union stands shoulder to shoulder with all our members working on the frontlines of healthcare and those who work tirelessly to help the public. Be safe.

In Solidarity,
Paula Doucet, NBNU President